

## VII. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

As representatives of Children's and YA Literature (Ellen) and African American Literature (Laura), we are uniquely positioned to explore the intersection between these two fields. We both have publication records and active research agendas in our respective fields. **Note that each of our "current projects" is evidence of productivity that follows from the project for which we are seeking funding and thus should be considered part of its "significance."**

**Ellen Donovan** teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in children's and young adult literature in the English Department. She has served the institution and the profession in the following roles: Director of Lower Division English; Director of the Middle TN Writing Project; organizer with MTSU colleagues of Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature, a conference which was held biennially from 1995 to 2009, and book review editor of *Children's Literature*, an annual. Her research typically focuses on late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century American children's literature. The list below documents her scholarly activity since 2010.

### Current Projects

Truth and Reconciliation in Carolyn Comans' *Many Stones*  
Toy Books as Souvenirs: Celebrating the Circus with Children  
Langston Hughes's Biographical Writing

### Publications

"A Boy Like You: Varieties of Boyhood in Late Nineteenth-Century American Children's Literature." Forthcoming *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, vol. 46, no. 1.  
"Annie Does Not Love the Monkeys': Hawthorne, Irony, and Childhood Innocence." *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, vol. 40, no. 1, Spring 2014, pp. 41-60.  
"The Circus in Nineteenth-Century Children's Literature." *The American Circus*. Ed. by Weber, Ames, and Wittmann. Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History and Material Culture and Yale U P, 2012, pp. 330-57.

### Conference Presentations

"Empathy and Sentiment in Postbellum American Boys' Fiction." Children's Literature Association, Indianapolis, Indiana, 2019  
"The Civics of the Circus." Children's Literature Association. Tampa, Florida, 2017  
"Annie does not love the monkeys: Hawthorne, Irony, and Childhood Innocence." Children's Literature Association. Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2010.

**Laura Dubek** teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in African American literature in the English Department. She has served the institution and the profession in the following roles: Director of Lower Division English; Faculty Senator; Committee member, Popular Culture Association African American Book Award; peer reviewer for *MELUS*. Her research typically focuses on 20<sup>th</sup> century African American fiction and popular culture. The list below documents her scholarly activity since 2010.

## Current Projects

Revisionist History and Harriet Tubman in Children's Picture Books

Walter's Blues: Finding Lorraine Hansberry in Anthony Grooms' *Bombingham*

Rewriting Richard Wright: James Baldwin's *Little Man, Little Man*

## Publications

"'Restorying' the Past: Morrison's *Remember*, a Black-and-White Primer for American Children." *College Literature*. Special Issue: Toni Morrison and Adaptation. 47.4 (Fall 2020): 840-867.

"Black Writers Matter: Frederick Douglass in the Literary Present." *Critical Insights: Frederick Douglass*. Ed. Jericho Williams. Salem Press, 2020. 219-234.

*Living Legacies: Literary Responses to the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Routledge, 2018.

"[D]e understandin' to go 'long wid it': Storytelling and (the) Civil Rights Movement." Introduction. *Living Legacies: Literary Responses to the Civil Rights Movement*. Ed. Dubek. New York: Routledge, 2018. 1-16.

"Back to Birmingham: Three Poets Remember the Sixteenth Street Church Bombing." With StarShield Lortie. In *Living Legacies: Literary Responses to the Civil Rights Movement*. Ed. Dubek. New York: Routledge, 2018. 69-79.

"'Fight for It!': The Twenty-First-Century Underground Railroad." *The Journal of American Culture*. 41.1 (March 2018): 68-80.

"Deeds Not Words: The Battle Cry of Spike Lee's *Miracle at St. Anna*." With Jesse Williams, Jr. *The Journal of Popular Film and Television* 43.2 (2015): 83-91.

"'Pass it On!': Legacy and the Freedom Struggle in Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*." *Southern Quarterly* 52.2 (Winter 2015): 90-109.

"*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and the African American Quest for Freedom and Literacy." In *Prison Narratives from Boethius to Zana*. Ed. Philip Edward Phillips. Palgrave-Macmillan, 2014. 195-214.

## Conference Presentations

"*Hamilton: An American Musical* and the Douglass, King, Miranda Mix-Tape" With Micah Hallman, PhD candidate. PCAS. October 4-6, 2018.

"White History Week: James Baldwin's Modest Proposal and the Liberation of Atticus Finch." PCA/ACA. Seattle. March 23-26, 2016.

"The Scandal of American Democracy: Zora Neale Hurston's Call and TV Writer Shonda Rhimes's Response." Faulkner & Hurston. Southeast Missouri State. Oct. 23-25, 2014.

## VIII. REFERENCES

Bishop, Rudine Sims. "African American Children's Literature: Researching Its Development, Exploring Its Voices." *Handbook of Research on Children's and Young Adult Literature* (2011).

Bishop, Rudine Sims. *Free Within Ourselves: The Development of African American Children's Literature*. Greenwood, 2007.

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- Rampersad, Arnold. *The Life of Langston Hughes*. 1986
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- Turner, Patricia A. *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters*. U of Mississippi P, 2009.
- Wong, Hertha D. Sweet. *Picturing Identity: Contemporary American Autobiography in Image and Text*. U of North Carolina P, 2018. Ebook edition: *Project Muse*. [Muse.jhu.edu/book/58891](https://www.projectmuse.com/book/58891) See, particularly pp. 196-218.